

**“Rapid Response,  
Quality Services”**



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# **F MIAMI BEACH IRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT**

Press Release

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **FIRE SAFE HOLIDAYS ARE A REASON TO CELEBRATE**

*(Miami Beach, Florida)* – Miami Beach Fire Rescue would like to remind you that fire & life safety is even MORE important during the holiday season because of the extra responsibilities that special occasions bring. Fire never takes a holiday so celebrate the holidays by practicing the following fire safety tips:

### **KITCHEN SAFETY:**

- Start holiday cooking with a clean stove and oven.
- Keep kitchen clutter and loose clothing away from the stove's heat.
- Turn pot handles in, away from a child's reach.
- Use pot holders to prevent burns.
- Never throw water on a grease fire. Instead, cover the burning pan with a lid.
- Keep all appliances in good working order.
- Never overload electrical outlets. Unplug appliances when not in use.
- Never leave cooking food unattended.
- Keep all decorations away from sources of direct heat.

### **CHRISTMAS TREES:**

- Choose a fresh tree. Look for one without shedding needles.
- Trim the trunk at an angle before placing in a non-tip stand.
- Water continuously and place away from all exits or direct sources of heat.
- Make sure all artificial trees have fire-retardant labels.

**HOLIDAY LIGHTS:**

- Make sure all lights are labeled by an independent testing laboratory.
- Never decorate metal trees with electric lights.
- Replace worn cords or loose connections.
- Do not overload outlets and keep cords free from obstruction.
- Unplug all decorative lights before leaving home or going to bed.

**HOLIDAY FLAMES, FIREPLACES & CANDLES:**

- Do not use candles in decorations or displays.
- Put candles in non-tip holders before lighting.
- Keep candles away from curtains, windows, other combustible materials or exits.
- Never leave candles unattended or within the reach of children.
- Store matches and lighters in a high cabinet, out of sight and reach of children.
- Extinguish candles by wetting the wicks before leaving the room or going to bed.
- Avoid hanging stockings near open flames.
- Have chimney professionally inspected and cleaned if necessary, at least once a year.
- Burn only well-seasoned, dry wood in your fireplace.
- Always use a fire screen.
- Only burn materials designed for a fireplace. Never burn paper or trash.
- Place ashes in metal containers away from your home.
- Have a spark arrester installed on the top of your chimney.

**SMOKE ALARMS: Save lives only if they are properly maintained.**

- Install inside sleeping areas, outside sleeping areas and on every level of your home.
- Test alarms monthly by pressing the test button.
- Change batteries twice a year when you change your clocks for Daylight Savings Time.
- For nuisance activations, fan away the smoke or relocate the alarm and NEVER remove batteries for use in other devices.
- Replace smoke alarms every ten years.

**SPACE HEATERS NEED SPACE:**

- Place at least three feet from any combustible surfaces or materials.
- Use the proper fuel for liquid-fuel space heaters.
- Make sure liquid-fuel space heaters are legal in your area and have a label from a fire safety laboratory.
- Set on hard level surfaces (never directly on carpet) and make sure the heater has a tip-over shut-off switch.

**CHOOSE TOYS WISELY:**

- Avoid toys that could be highly flammable.
- Make sure electric toys have a fires safety label from an independent testing laboratory.
- Keep electric toys away from Christmas tree and paper decorations.

**PARTY SAFELY:**

- Use flame-retardant or non-combustible materials for costumes and decorations.
- Provide large, deep, non-tip ashtrays.
- Empty ashtrays often and wet contents before dumping.
- Check furniture, cushions, and trash cans for smoldering cigarette butts.
- Watch drinkers and smokers for carelessness.
- Make sure all exits are clear and unobstructed.
- Watch for excessive drinking and NEVER let excessive drinkers get behind the wheel of a motor vehicle.

**FIREWORKS SAFETY:**

- Attend only public fireworks displays.
- Private fireworks celebrations that use fireworks that emit a loud bang and/or leave the ground are illegal in the State of Florida and may require a permit.
- Adults should supervise the use of fireworks.
- Sparks and smoldering embers from fireworks can start fires. Have water nearby for emergencies.
- Never use fireworks in neighborhood backyards or other crowded areas.
- Always light fireworks one at a time.

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